Exploration of Titanium Deposits

1507. SHRI BJ. PANDA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the huge resources of Titanium in the country;

(b) if so, the approximate reserves of Titanium in the country, location-wise;

(c) the reason why this trategic metal is not being extracted;

(d) whether Government have any proposal for proper exploitation of Titanium deposits in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS, SPORTS AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA); (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government is aware of the huge resources of Titanium in the country. The details of the mineral reserves in different States as per the Indian Mineral Year Book 1998 and 1999 are furnished hereunder:

(In million tonnes)

State	Ilmenite	Rutile	Leucoxene	Titaniferous Magnetite
Andhra Pradesh	72.34	2.3560	0.8532	—
Bihar	0.74	0.0110	—	—
Karnataka	—	—	—	8.169
Kerala	75.21	4,8500	1.0692	—
Orissa	38.38	1.6234	0.0419	2.17
Maharashtra	1.67	—	0.0828	1.960
Tamil Nadu	86.90	4.4593	4.2339	—
West Bengal	2.08	0.1920	—	—
TOTAL:	277.52	13.4919	6.2810	12.299

(c) to (e) The base minerals for production of Titanium are Rutile

and Ilmenite, which are processed further for the production of Titanium Sponge/Dioxide. The technology for production of Titanium Sponge has been developed by DMRL, Hyderabad. The Department of Atomic Energy has been considering setting up a plant for the production of Titanium Sponge (and Zirconium Oxide) with participation by Ministry of Defence and Department of Space. At present the economic viability of the use of Zirconium Oxide/Titanium Sponge to be produced in the proposed plant is being examined.

Reform in the Mines Sector

1508. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the major ongoing projects in the mining sector and the order of investment proposed thereon, projectwise;

(b) whether Government have initiated reform process in Mines sector to attract foreign direct Investment;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the details of private sector and foreign direct investment proposals received and cleared during the recent past and the estimates of fresh investment committed; and

(e) the details of fresh FDI proposals received and under consideration, Statewise?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS, SPORTS AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA): (a) In the public sector, the National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) has undertaken the expansion of the capacity of Bauxite Mines from 2.4 Million Tonnes Per year (MTPY) to 4.8 MTPY and that of Alumina Refinery from 0.8 MTPY to 1.575 MTPY at Damanjodi at an investment of Rs. 1664.60 crores. NALCO has also undertaken the expansion of capacity of Aluminium Smelter from the existing 2,30,000 Tonnes Per year (TPY) to 3,45,000 TPY and that Captive Power Plant from 720 MW to 840 MW at Angul for an investment of Rs. 2062 crores. Bharat Aluminium Company Limited, also in the public sector, has undertaken the installation